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# THE MORNING NEWS

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## France to sign gay marriage bill into law today

PARIS, France (AFP) - French President Francois Hollande was set to sign a gay marriage and adoption bill into law on Saturday after it was cleared by the Constitutional Council which turned down a challenge by the right-wing opposition.

Hollande, who had made "marriage for all" a key election pledge, made the announcement saying it was "now time to respect the law and the Republic" after the top French institution cleared the bill on Friday.

The first gay wedding can be held 10 days after Hollande signs it into law.

Today, France will become the 14th country to legalise same-sex marriage, joining a club of eight other European nations -- the Netherlands, Belgium, Spain, Norway, Sweden, Portugal, Iceland and Denmark.

The bill was approved on April 23 by parliament but was immediately challenged on constitutional grounds by the main right-wing opposition UMP party of former president Nicolas Sarkozy.

The UMP had opposed what it said was a fast-track voting procedure and argued that gay marriage represented such a fundamental change that more than a law is required.

A statement by the Council said same-sex marriage "did not run contrary to any constitutional principles," and that it did not infringe on "basic rights or liberties or national sovereignty."

Harlem Desir, leader of Hollande's ruling Socialist party, said: "It's a victory for the French republic and for equality. It's a day of great pride for the Socialists."

But a Parisian socialite who goes by the name of Frigide Barjot and has become the public face of the movement opposing gay marriage said the council's go-ahead was a "provocation."

Barjot told AFP: "It's an institutional revolution," adding: "We are in the process of changing civilisation."

## Mulligan's provides some special perks for Ladies of the Links community with the Pharmaton Golf Tournament



It is about wine, golf and being fit with Pharmaton

A few years ago, The Links at the Divi golf course began a special program of clinics and frequent golf events for the female gender they dubbed "The Ladies of the

Links." It provides the female golf fanatics of Aruba numerous opportunities to improve their game, find playing partners and established a friendly, social community enabling them to keep fit in a most pleasant manner.

agency. The agency's Assistant General Manager, Cristine Hintz, was on hand to welcome the players and distributed goody bags with samples of the company's products along with logo polo shirts for them to wear during the tournament.

On Thursday evening, Tabitha Fecunda of the Divi marketing staff welcomed the Ladies of the Links and members of the Aruba Golf Club (AGC) in San Nicolas for a social happy hour at Mulligan's restaurant in the course's clubhouse. It was a congenial prelude to a special tournament taking place this weekend sponsored by Pharmaton vitamin supplements, distributed on Aruba exclusively

by Manrique Capriles & Sons

Continued on pg 3



AGC President Bob Miller handles the draw

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## Aruba Government sign important agreement during EMA Conference



ORANJESTAD -- During the recently held Europe Meets the Americas Conference, the government of Aruba signed a very important agreement of cooperation with two critical partners with respect to the transition to renewable energy. The two partners: Dutch organization TNO and the Carbon War Room.

The signing of this important agreement took place on the very first day of the Conference, on May 6th. The two world class innovators signed an agreement that would define how together they will serve the interests of the government of Aruba in pursuing sustainable development on the island.

The objective of the planned cooperation is to develop a solid national strategy to promote economic growth, social justice and environmental consciousness for Aruba, but also to serve as a model for other countries to make the transition from combustible fossil and achieve 'smart growth.'

Successful transition on Aruba will serve as a powerful model for other island nations and will fortify Aruba's economic position in the region. The agreement describes how Carbon War Room and TNO will collaborate to ensure that

international and local commitments of the government will be implemented and to reap maximum benefits of the enormous additional capacities that these two organizations bring to Aruba.

TNO-Caribe has over 4 thousand scientists and investigators who can offer advice, evaluations and expertise. They also have practical expertise with respect to technical implementation on the island. Carbon War Room is a non-governmental organization founded by Sir Richard Branson to reduce fossil emission on a global level, to manage projects, media and capacities of commercializing projects. They will use a global network of technical specialists and financial leaders to invest in Aruba beyond what Aruba will be able to do on her own.

The Prime Minister of Aruba remarked at the signing of the agreement that he is very proud of these world renowned organizations, respected globally for their expertise and their intent on helping Aruba achieve an important task full of challenges. He said that he is very anxious to see how this cooperation will benefit Aruba and give us the impulse we need to achieve sustainable growth.

## Xavier University makes a donation to Miss Aruba's project "Aruba against Domestic Violence"



**On May 14th, 2013 Miss Aruba Larisa Leeuwe received a check of AWG. 2,000 from Xavier University for her cause "Aruba against Domestic Violence." The purpose of her project is to raise funds for 4 different local foundations, who contribute in the fight against domestic violence on Aruba by creating awareness on the topic and helping the victims of abuse. All funds raised for this project will be divided between the following foundations: Fundacion Hende Muher den difficultad, Fundacion Respetami, Fundacion Guia Mi and Fundacion Casa Cuna Progreso. The desire to make people healthier and safer is at the heart of Xavier University's giving. Larisa wishes to thank Xavier University and in particular their President Mr. Bhooplapur for supporting her cause and the Aruban community. Their generous support will make a meaningful difference in people's lives.**



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## Pre-clearance is the next step in the future of self-service, according to KLM's Marketing VP Marjan Rintel



Since 1934 KLM has been flying to the Dutch Antilles and in 1935 connections were established between Aruba, Curacao and Holland. KLM currently has 5 weekly direct flights and 14 indirect flights to Aruba. Marketing and Brand Vice President for KLM, Marjan Rintel, has indicated that..."after an absence of 2 years, KLM returned in 2010...and we are happy to be back in Aruba and to be able to work on the Aruba Gateway concept between Europe and the Americas."

Aruba is working diligently on getting a pre-clearance arrangement from

Aruba to Europe. The process is far advanced. Pre-clearance is very relevant to KLM because for the airline the experience of the consumer is an important part of the airport processing. According to Rintel, KLM passengers detest standing in long lines. For this very reason KLM has introduced various innovative methods such as self-service check-in, self-service boarding, self-service baggage drop-off. Even then people still have to stand in line to check their documentation. Rintel indicated that, for KLM, the pre-clearance project will mean the long lines will be eliminated at the

airport in Europe if they can make the link between the check-in and ID verifications. As an airline, they are intent on cooperating with the project and making it happen. This will make traveling for our clients so much easier. It is the development of the future, the next step in the area of self-service, according to Rintel.

The process to implement the pre-clearance protocol is far advanced. During the Europe Meets the Americas Conference two functional concepts were presented. KLM's Rintel said..."Biometrics is a proven concept. What we need now is to connect the IT systems to each other. What our governments need to do is to coordinate the project into the European treaties so that we can take the next steps to achieve the pre-clearance.

For KLM, the Aruba Gateway concept is very important. KLM flights transports 50% of her passengers to Aruba and 70 to 80% to the Schengen countries. They all come to Aruba. KLM is functioning more and more as a transfer carrier as well as a commercial carrier. So that should Aruba become a Gateway between Europe for the USA and Latin America via Aruba, KLM would gladly serve as transporter to make this happen, says Rintel.

In her observation, Rintel remarked that it is much easier for independent businesses to do business with Latin America and Central America via the laws of Aruba and via the connections of the Dutch Kingdom rather than establishing directly in those countries.

KLM's direct and indirect flights to Aruba are doing well. What KLM intends to do in the future is establish partnerships. They already have a partnership with Insel-Air and other partners in the USA. They will be embarking on partnerships in Latin America and Central America. In this manner they could connect their network for their clients.

## SETAR N.V. presents Financial Report 2012 to Minister de Meza



Recently SETAR N.V. presented their Financial Report 2012 to Aruba's Minister of Finance/Communication, Utilities and Energy Minister Mike de Meza. The Minister was very satisfied with the tremendous results and the explanation given on the figures presented and also the professional way in which SETAR did their presentation. Photo shows SETAR's Director Mr. Roland Croes handing over the report to Minister de Meza.

## Mulligan's provides some special perks for Ladies of the Links...

**Continued from pg 1**



Enjoying the wine tasting



Goody bags from Pharmaton to all players



Clive Faustin and Tabitha Fecunda

Players will play a scramble format, and later 9 holes.

Prizes will be awarded to best nett, best gross, longest drive for Women and Men, and Nearest to the Pin.

Aruba Golf Club President conducted the draw pairing members of the AGC with Ladies of the Links.

The tournament will take place this afternoon, with tee-off at 2:30 p.m.; it will be a two-man shotgun start, finishing with a cocktail party at The Links clubhouse patio, when the winners will be announced and trophies awarded.

**By Rosalie Klein**



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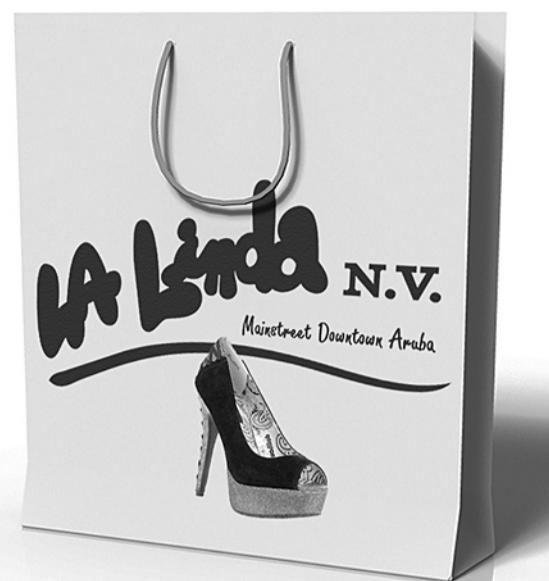
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## Dazzling Kings and Queens at Marriott's Associate Quarter celebration



Marriott's All Star team of Quarter 1 with the Executive team



Supervisor of the year Mario vd Werf with GM Surf Club Joop Bangma and LP Manager Sander Lammers

Dazzling tiaras, crowns, robes and evening gowns were a must at Aruba Marriott's associates celebration themed event "Kings and Queens at the resort's Grand Ballroom on Tuesday May 14.

On behalf of Marriott's Executive team, Human Resources Director Barbara Bronswinkel thanked all nominees for their excellent service and dedication. Nom-

inated by their managers and supervisors a group of seven associates were chosen All Star Team based on their excellent performances and going beyond expectations for Marriott's guests in the first quarter.

**The winners of the first quarter were:** Herley Acosta Herrera - Casino Beverage, Rudolf Dirks - Engineering Ocean Club, Wilma Ben-

jamin - Pavillion, Gloria Geerman Arredondo - Housekeeping, Maria Zuleta Armenta - Kitchen, Rosario Carolina - Bellstand Resort and Dwight Lacle - Systems.

In addition for the first quarter supervisors and managers were recognized for their outstanding contribution to the Marriott. New General Manager of the Surf Club Joop Bangma announced Supervisor Mario van de Werf from Loss Prevention Surf Club as Supervisor of the first Quarter. Mario showed great teamwork and went above and beyond to assist guests.

Director of Revenue Strategy Ben Figaroa recognized Ester Maduro Manager of the first Quarter. Ester has been instrumental implementing strategies to run a high occupancy and a revenue increase for the resort in the first quarter.

All nominees received a personalized gift and enjoyed a sumptuous dinner buffet. The party tunes were provided by the band Delicious. The Aruba Marriott congratulates all nominees and winners of the first quarter with their great achievements!



Manager of the 1st Quarter Ester Maduro with Dir. of Revenue Strategy Ben Figaroa and Dir. of Sales & Marketing Antoinette van den Berg



Kings & Queens Theme at Marriott's first quarter celebration

## Former Dutch minister Koenders to head UN Mali mission

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) - UN leader Ban Ki-moon on Friday named former Dutch government minister Bert Koenders as head of the key UN mission in Mali where French and African troops are battling Islamist militants.

Koenders will head UN efforts to help Mali's interim government to re-establish control over the African state where Islamist extremists took over the north of the country for 10 months until France intervened in January.

"He has a key role in the perspective of rallying the different parties in the process. It is not an easy task, but it is imperative," Dutch Foreign Minister Frans Timmermans said in welcoming the appointment.

The UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) peacekeeping force is aiming to take over from French and African forces in July.

Koenders was Dutch minister for development cooperation from 2007 to 2010. He has been the head of the UN mission in Ivory Coast, UNOCI, since October 2011.

Former Niger foreign minister Aïchatou Mindaoudou Souleymane will take over as head of UNOCI, the UN said. Mindaoudou was deputy and head of the UN-African Union force in Darfur from 2011 until March this year.

Ban also named Lieutenant General Carlos Alberto Dos Santos Cruz of Brazil as force commander of the UN Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO).

## Yahoo! sets event amid Tumblr talk

NEW YORK (AFP) - Yahoo! scheduled a news conference Monday amid reports it was in talks with popular blogging platform Tumblr about an acquisition or strategic alliance.

The California tech giant offered no details of the event, set for New York, but invited reporters to "join us as we share something special."

Tumblr, a fast-growing blogging platform popular with young Internet users, is

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headquartered in New York.

The Dow Jones-owned website AllThingsD reported Friday that Yahoo! is eyeing the move to attract more users from the key 18- to 24-year-old age bracket, and that the Internet pioneer sees Tumblr as one of the "coolest" sites.

The report said talks between the two firms were "serious" but that nothing had been finalized.

Yahoo! has been looking at a range of acquisitions

since Marissa Mayer took over as chief executive last year and vowed to revive the company, which has faded in the face of competition from Google.

AllThingsD said Tumblr could fetch as much as \$1 billion, and that its current valuation based on investments is believed to be in the range of \$800 million.

The report said Tumblr is interested in "strategic" investments, which could mean some kind of alliance.

Forbes magazine meanwhile reported that Facebook and Microsoft were also interested in Tumblr but that Yahoo! was negotiating under a "lockup" that would prevent other offers unless a deal with Yahoo! fell through.

Yahoo! recently failed in a bid to take over the online video site Dailymotion after the French government, which owns a stake, quashed the deal. The California firm is now reported to be inter-

ested in another video website, Hulu.

Tumblr has grown into one of the most popular social media sites since its founding in 2007, but has also been dogged by copyright issues.

A 2012 lawsuit from Perfect 10 claimed Tumblr allows its users to post and "reblog" content from the adult magazine.

Tumblr's says it has more than 107 million blogs, 50 billion postings and 175 employees.

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## Apple, US lawmakers in offshore tax showdown

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Apple and US lawmakers are gearing up for a showdown over taxes -- specifically how to deal with the huge stockpile of cash held by Apple and other multinational firms offshore.

A Senate panel has called Apple chief executive Tim

Cook and others from the California tech giant to testify at a hearing Tuesday on "methods employed by multinational corporations to shift profits offshore."

The hearing comes amid increased scrutiny on offshore holdings of big US cor-

porations, which have hundreds of billions overseas but are reluctant to bring the funds home because they could be subject to a top tax rate of 35 percent.

Apple is in focus because of its \$145 billion cash stockpile, much of it offshore. The

company recently sold \$17 billion in bonds to raise cash instead of repatriating profits, which would be taxed.

Cook told the Washington Post he will be offering his own proposal to lawmakers, which he argued would make it easier for Apple and other

companies to repatriate offshore profits.

Apple "likely is the largest corporate taxpayer in the US," Cook said in the interview, estimating that the iPhone and iPad maker would pay \$7 billion this year in income taxes.

### International Day Against Homophobia marked with tolerance pleas



phobia and transphobia -- the fear of transgender people -- are "violations of human dignity."

In the Georgian capital, Tbilisi, thousands of antigay demonstrators led by Orthodox priests broke through police lines and attacked gay-rights demonstrators, who had to be evacuated by police.

In Russia's second city of St. Petersburg, a few dozen gay-rights activists held a rally under heavy police protection after organizers reported receiving death threats.

In a report released on May 17, the European Union's rights agency said sexual minorities face widespread intolerance and violence across EU countries.

The Vienna-based Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA) said that a poll it conducted of more than 93,000 lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people in the European Union and Croatia revealed that 47 percent felt they were discriminated against or harassed in the previous 12 months because of who they are.

The Netherlands was the country with the lowest rate of discrimination at 30 percent, while more than 60 percent of those polled in Croatia, Romania, and Lithuania felt disadvantaged in areas such as education, work, or health care.

Netherlands Queen Maxima arrives for the opening of conference to mark the May 17 annual International Day Against Homophobia, in The Hague, the Netherlands

May 17 was International Day Against Homophobia and the event was marked across Europe with demonstrations and calls for tolerance.

EU foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton issued a statement reaffirming the European Union's "commitment to equality and nondiscrimination."

EU Justice and Fundamental Rights Commissioner Viviane Reding said homo-

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## Former Argentina dictator Videla dies

BUENOS AIRES (AFP) - Former dictator Jorge Videla, who ruled Argentina during its "Dirty War," died in prison Friday while serving a life sentence for crimes against humanity. He was 87.

Videla, who ruled at the head of a military junta between 1976 and 1981, died of natural causes, C5N television reported.

As many as 30,000 people were kidnapped and "disappeared" by the military during an all-out campaign against the left launched by Videla, in which suspected opponents

were swept into secret prisons, tortured and murdered.

Videla, who came to power in a 1976 military coup, was sentenced to life in prison in 2010 for the disappearance of 31 prisoners and to another 50 years in 2011 for the theft of children born to female prisoners.

Videla showed little remorse for a record of human rights abuses that made the Argentine junta symbol of repressive Latin American military dictatorships.

He died in the Marcos Paz prison southwest of Buenos Aires.

## Women cannot stand for Iran president: cleric

TEHRAN (AFP) - Women can not contest Iran's June 14 presidential election, a member of the Islamic state's electoral watchdog said in media reports on Friday, dashing the hopes of some 30 female candidates.

"The law prohibits women from being president," said hardline cleric and former judiciary chief Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi, quoted by the Mehr news agency.

Yazdi is a prominent member of Iran's Guardians Council, an unelected watchdog controlled by religious conservatives and appointed by Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei that is tasked

mainly with vetting candidates.

The vetting process is designed to ensure candidates are faithful to the principles of the Islamic republic and its official religion.

Since the 1979 Islamic revolution, it has rejected all female candidates for the presidency, although women have been allowed to stand in parliamentary elections and to serve as lawmakers.

A final list of hopefuls who can contest the June 14 poll is expected to be announced early next week. Some 686 people, including 30 women, registered their candidacy last

week.

Yazdi said that under the constitution only men can run for the presidency, but did not specify if this was his interpretation or that of the council.

In 2009, the watchdog's spokesman, Abbasali Kadkhodai, said there was no restriction on women standing for president.

The Guardians Council had "never rejected anyone's candidacy because (he or she) was a woman or a man, and when a woman's candidacy was rejected it was because she did not have the overall skills," he said at the time.

## Chopard jewels worth \$1 million stolen at Cannes

CANNES (AFP) - Jewellery worth more than \$1 million due to be loaned to stars at the Cannes Film Festival was stolen from a local hotel in a pre-dawn heist on Friday but the coveted Palme d'Or trophy was safe, officials said.

In a scenario itself worthy of a movie, thieves entered the hotel room of an American

woman employee of Swiss bijouter Chopard and ripped out the strongbox in the wardrobe, according to police reports.

They then made off with the safe and the jewels inside.

The robbery took place before 5:00 a.m. at the Novotel hotel, which is located about 15 minutes from the festival venue, they said.

Police are looking at footage from the city's security cameras to hunt for clues, they added.

Chopard is one of the official sponsors of the festival, and one of its stores, complete with its own red carpet, lies on the palm-fringed beachfront, just opposite the venue.

The jeweller redesigned the Palme d'Or trophy and each

year lends out jewellery to stars for their walk up the red-carpeted steps at the Palais des Festivals.

The photo-calls are hugely valuable to makers of gowns and jewellery, providing media exposure around the world.

Last year, thieves made off with four watches worth 400,000 euros (\$513,000) be-

longing to football stars Souleymane Diawara and Mamadou Niang who were in Cannes for the festival.

Actresses at this year's festival who have donned Chopard jewellery include Julianne Moore, Lana Del Rey, Cindy Crawford, China's Fan Bingbing and Spain's Blanca Suarez.

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## Health

### French firm denies fraud over faulty breast implants

MARSEILLE (AFP) - Lawyers for the founder of French firm PIP whose faulty breast implants sparked a global health scare denied wrongdoing Friday as the court said it would deliver a verdict in December.

In closing arguments, the defence called for a lighter sentence than the four-years imprisonment requested by prosecutors.

The month-long trial in Marseille saw prosecutor Jacques Dallest also calling for PIP founder Jean-Claude Mas to pay a 100,000 euro (\$130,000) fine and to be banned from working in medical services or from running a company.

Five PIP executives are on trial in the case including the 73-year-old Mas, charged with aggravated fraud for using in-

dustrial-grade silicone in implants.

The others on trial are PIP's former general manager Claude Couty, quality control director Hannelore Font, technical director Loic Gossart and product director Thierry Brinon.

The prosecutor called for prison terms of between six months and two years for the other defendants.

Mas, speaking in court to his four co-accused, said he regretted "the manner in which PIP had to wind up."

"A large percentage of the victims had NuSil gel (which is made by a California company which can be used in medical applications) in their implants," he said. Mas reiterated that the gel used by his company was "not toxic or dangerous."

### Healthy Habit for Children



**Flush and Flee:** Some potty talk: While it's tempting for a child (particularly a toddler who's in the middle of toilet training) to want to watch the precious products of her efforts swirl away, it's not such a great idea to encourage her to do this. With every flush, droplets of water containing minute particles of whatever was just deposited (yes, that means pee, poop, or vomit) spew into the air. Not only could this geyser of germs land directly on your kid, it could settle on nearby surfaces. So if you want your children to pick up this particular healthy habit, show them how to put down the lid (carefully, of course — a mashed finger isn't any more fun than a tummy ache that can result from the type of bacteria lurking in the toilet)

### Pregnant Canadian women sue over faulty birth control pills

OTTAWA (AFP) - A group of pregnant Canadian women launched a class-action lawsuit Friday against the maker of a recalled birth control pill after it was discovered the packages contained mostly placebos.

The lawsuit over 45 unwanted pregnancies and four abortions seeks Can\$800 million (US\$778.8 million) against pharmaceutical firm Apotex, the maker of the birth control pill Alysexa.

"When they first got the news that they were pregnant they were shocked, stressed out and very worried," lawyer Sandy Zaitzeff said of his clients.

"Raising a child today costs millions of dollars," he told AFP. "In this modern world, people enter into relationships and don't necessarily want to have a child and so should not be burdened with the costs of raising a child."

Thousands of pill packages with the lot number LF01899A were recalled April 8 because some packages contained two weeks worth of placebo pills instead of just one.

Days later, the recall was expanded to 11 other lots, for a total of 550,000 packages.

Health Minister Leona Aglukkaq has ordered an investigation into a five-day delay in informing the public.



### Acne pill benefits outweigh blood clot risk: EU agency

PARIS (AFP) - Europe's medicines watchdog said Friday the benefits of acne drug Diane-35, also widely used as a contraceptive, outweigh the risk of developing blood clots in the veins -- when correctly prescribed.

The clot risk was "low", said a European Medicines Agency (EMA) ruling on a French-initiated review of the drug's safety.

But it stressed Diane-35 and its generics should be used only for acne treatment, as indicated by the pill's German manufacturer, Bayer.

It should only be prescribed when alternative acne treatments had failed, and measures must be taken to minimise the blood clot risk.

"Since Diane-35 and its generics are hormonal contraceptives, women should not take these medicines in combination with other hormonal contraceptives" -- this would expose them to high doses of the female hormone oestrogen, which has been linked to thrombosis, the agency said in a statement.

Diane-35 is authorised in over 100 countries and used by millions of women.

According to the package insert on Bayer's website, Diane-35 is indicated for hormonal skin conditions, in cases that other treatments had not worked.

The leaflet seeks to discourage the drug's use for birth control alone -- although Diane-35's hormone make-up means it acts as a contraceptive by blocking ovulation.

The insert does warn of a higher risk of blood clots in the blood vessels, which can break off and lodge in the lungs, obstructing blood flow to key organs and cause heart attacks or strokes, even death.

In January, French health regulator ANSM suspended sales of the hormone tablet which it linked to four thrombosis deaths and more than 100 cases of blood clots in the past 25 years.

In some European countries it is authorised for use as a dual acne treatment-contraception solution.



## Sci-Tech

## Pet lovers take blogging to the next level



TYSONS CORNER (AFP) - When Dexter the cocker spaniel tore a ligament in his hind leg a few weeks ago, he didn't suffer in silence. Instead, his owner wrote a blog post.

"The vet told me my dog needed surgery, and I thought, 'You know, there's got to be something else,'" said Carol Bryant, who writes a "canine-centric online magazine" called A Fidose of Reality.

Responding to her blog entries, readers told Bryant that Dexter didn't have to go under the knife. He had options, like laser therapy and a leg brace he'll be wearing for the next six months.

So good is his progress that Dexter has come with Bryant from rural Pennsylvania to this Washington suburb for the biggest US gathering ever of pet bloggers -- people who embrace social media to rave about pets.

The Fifth Annual BlogPaws Conference, with 500 participants and perhaps as many critters, is a chance to network, swap ideas and maybe win a coveted Nose-to-Nose Pet Blogging and Social Media award (for which The Intrepid Pup, about a peripatetic Vizsla called Tavish, is nominated in three categories).

Workshops include a primer on using Google Analytics to gauge online readership, building bridges between bloggers and veterinarians, and Schmitty the Weather Dog demonstrating a just-released Sony canine video harness.

In its online community, BlogPaws has 2,200 members, said co-founder Yvonne DiVita, who writes about her cat and three dogs in Colorado on a blog titled Scratchings and Sniffings.

With Americans spending \$53.33 billion on their pets last year, according to the American Pet Products Association, and 62 percent of households owning a pet, the pet care industry is taking the bloggers seriously.

"The followers and readers of pet blogs are so loyal, and they trust the word of bloggers," said Bridget Evans, a San Diego publicist attending BlogPaws for VetIQ, a newcomer to the pet medication and health supplements business.

Longtime syndicated pet columnist Steve Dale said his blog, which he updates daily, is one of the most popular among 200 blogs hosted by the Chicago Tribune's Chicago Now website, attracting 100,000 visitors a month.



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## US scientist not involved in classified research: witnesses

SINGAPORE (AFP) - Colleagues of a US scientist found hanged in Singapore last year told a coroner's inquiry Friday he was not involved in projects with military applications and was never asked to compromise any country's national security.

High-tech researcher Shane Todd, whose death under disputed circumstances last June sparked global media attention, was part of a research team working on gallium-nitride (GaN), a semiconductor that can be used in radar and satellite communications.

Todd's parents allege their son was murdered after he had grown anxious the project he was working on for the Institute of Microelectronics (IME) was linked to a Chinese telecoms firm and could endanger US national security.

Medical experts have said that an autopsy report point to a suicide, but the family, backed by senior US officials, asked

for a deeper probe.

"During his time at the IME, Shane was never asked to do anything that would compromise the national security of any country," Patrick Lo, deputy executive director for research at the institute, told the inquest on its fifth day.

"Shane was also never asked to obtain restricted or classified information and to provide them to other countries," said Lo, who was Todd's immediate superior.

The coroner's inquiry, which is due to last until May 28, will determine the cause of his death.

At the time of his death at age 31, Todd had just finished a stint with the IME, where he was part of a team working on GaN.

His former colleagues however told the inquiry there was nothing sinister about the project and that research on GaN is commonplace in the industry.

The London-based Financial Times reported in February that the scientist was working on an advanced amplifier using GaN which could have military applications.

The report said a computer hard drive discovered by Todd's parents at his flat after his death linked the amplifier project to Huawei Technologies, a Chinese telecom giant suspected by Washington of involvement in espionage.

But Lo at the inquiry reiterated IME's earlier assertions that talks between the institute Huawei on the development of a GaN amplifying device never progressed beyond preliminary stages.

He also said the amplifiers were not for military use as reported by the newspaper as their frequency and power specifications meant they were more suitable for commercial purposes.

## CO MICS

## PICKLES



## MOMMA



## CALVIN and HOBBS

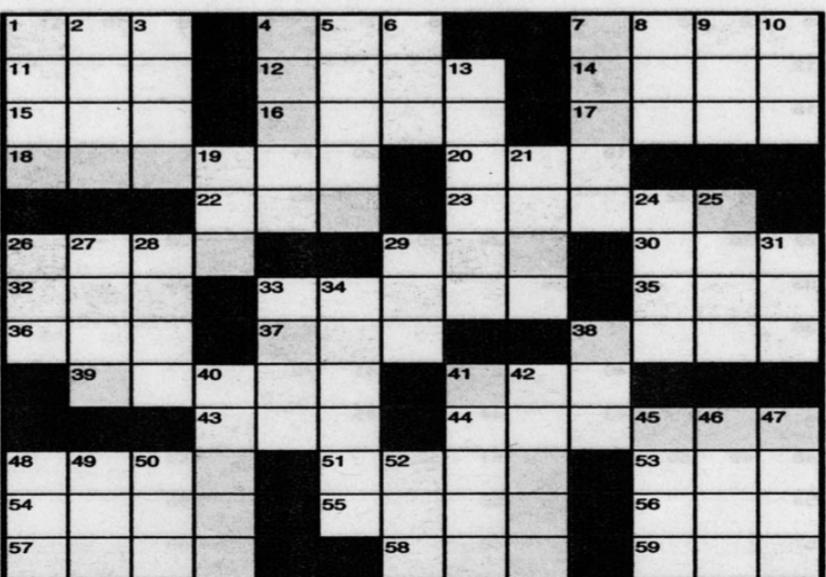


## CROSSWORD

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## ACROSS

1. Tennis redo
4. Eden lady
7. Father, to a baby
11. French island
12. Astronaut Armstrong
14. Give off
15. Pounds (abbr.)
16. Eat supper
17. Peruvian capital
18. Tuft of fringe
20. Concorde's inits.
22. Name bracelets, for short
23. Sparse
26. Failure
29. Rock's — Fighters
30. Pop's wife
32. GOP mem.
33. Be very economical
35. Scrambled item
36. — manner of speaking (2 wds.)
37. Rowing item
38. Yearly checkup
39. Half-melted snow
41. Took a chair
43. "Bali —"
44. One who marries in haste
48. " — Light in the Window" (2 wds.)
51. Actress Louise



## CROSSWORD



53. Motorists' gp.
54. Isaac's son
55. Privy to (2 wds.)
56. Suffix for a doctrine
57. Christmas carol word
58. Physicians (abbr.)
59. — Moines
10. — turning point (2 wds.)
13. Instruction
19. Taste champagne
21. Native of Glasgow
24. Land of Enchantment (abbr.)
25. Caesar's robe
26. Sat. preceder
27. Microscope part
28. October gem
29. Conifer
31. Film studio inits.
33. Baseballer Sammy
34. Gauguin's island
38. Ike's theater
40. Truck rental company (hyph.)
41. Mexican mister
42. Thicke and Alda
45. Picked up the check
46. Alleviate
47. St. Louis footballers
48. Writing implement
49. GI entertainment center
50. Edison's initials
52. Not Rep. or Dem.

1. Happy tune
2. Napoleon's place of exile
3. — Trueheart
4. Stopped
5. Bridal shop items
6. One, in Berlin
7. Greek letter
8. "Who — kidding?" (2 wds.)
9. Like romantic

## SOLUTION

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
11			12		13			
15			16			14		
18		19		20	21			
		22		23		24	25	
26	27	28		29		30		31
32			33	34		35		
36			37		38			
	39	40		41	42			
48	49	50		51	52		53	
54			55			56		
57			58			59		

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9. A number is never repeated in a row or column. In addition, every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9.



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C.V. TAS  
587-1998, 587-5900  
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# Sudoku

			9				8	7
						3		9
6	1						7	9
8							2	5
					2	3	6	
4		2						1
	9				8		6	5
					7		3	
2	3						7	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
6	5	8	7	4	3	1	2	9
7	9	4	8	2	1	6	5	3
4	3	2	5	7	8	9	6	1
9	1	5	2	3	6	4	8	7
8	7	6	9	1	4	2	3	5
5	6	1	4	3	9	7	3	2
2	8	7	3	6	9	5	1	4
3	4	9	1	5	2	8	7	6

**FINANCE****US Treasury:  
no impact  
from debt  
cap before  
Sept**

WASHINGTON (AFP) - US Treasury Secretary Jacob Lew said on Friday that the government would not feel the pinch from a cap on debt before September, as net new borrowings were to halt this weekend.

The Treasury's statutory borrowing power -- necessary to bridge a large budget deficit that is forecast at \$642 billion for the fiscal year ending September 30 -- will be capped on Saturday, by congressional legislation set earlier this year.

The May 18 date was set at the beginning of February in a short-term compromise between the White House and Republicans in Congress as the two sides battle over how to reduce the federal budget deficit.

On Friday the debt stood at \$16.7 trillion, up \$300 billion from when the previous ceiling was reached on December 31.

In a letter Lew wrote to House of Representatives Speaker John Boehner that was released Friday, he said the Treasury could keep the government going and "pay the nation's bills" into September, if not longer, helped by special accounting measures and a surprise rise in receipts from taxes and dividends.

The special measures include by adjusting the way the Treasury manages cash and debt flows, for instance by not issuing debt to absorb cash received by the Social Security system.

But Lew urged Congress to quickly raise the borrowing limit to ensure confidence in the government's ability to fund itself and pay its creditors.

Increasing the debt limit "simply permits the United States to honor pre-existing commitments to our citizens, businesses and investors here and around the world," he said.

**YESTERDAY'S  
Crossword Answer**

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**Oil rallies after jump in US consumer confidence**

NEW YORK (AFP) - World oil prices rose for the third day in a row Friday after a better-than-expected reading on US consumer confidence boosted hopes for stronger energy demand in the top global economy.

The US benchmark contract, West Texas Intermediate for June delivery, rose 86 cents from Thursday to close at \$96.02 a barrel.

Brent North Sea crude for delivery in July also rose 86 cents, settling at \$104.64 a barrel in London.

A run of mixed US data in recent weeks took a positive turn Friday, with a bigger-than-expected increase in the University of Michigan consumer sentiment index signaling a better outlook for consumer spending that drives about two-thirds of

the economy.

The data suggested "that the US is firmly turning around, and that (oil) demand should be more robust this summer as people will be driving, and (consumer) confidence is important for that," said Michael Lynch of Strategic Energy and Economic Research.

Adding to the market optimism was a rebound in the Conference Board's leading

economic index in April. The reading pointed to "a continuing economic expansion with some upside potential," the research firm said.

Phil Flynn of Price Futures Group agreed that the strong consumer confidence number was "good for gasoline" demand as the summer vacation driving season gets under way at the end of May.

## Loyal visitors honored by Aruba Tourism Authority



Mr. Michael and Mrs. Karen Chapman from Narragansett, RI and Mr. Joseph and Mrs. Kathleen Riccio from Verona, NJ. were honored as Distinguished Visitors of Aruba.



Mr. Albert and Mrs. Diane Marino from Poukeepsie NY and Mr. Alan and Mrs. Mary Feikle from Hinckley Ohio received the Distinguished Visitors of Aruba honor.

ORANJESTAD -- Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring loyal friends of Aruba as Distinguished Visitors. The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of

appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 10 to 19 consecutive years.

The certificates were presented to the honorees by Mr. Ernest Giel representing the Aruba Tourism Authority.

## La Linda Department Store - where Aruba shops!



Calman and Anna Hochman

--Though Aruba has its share of designer brand stores and shopping malls, ask almost any islander where they shop, and they will likely tell you "La Linda." Spread out over several specialty stores on the Caya Betico Croes, La Linda was Aruba's first and foremost department stores, where, for decades, one could find anything and everything, and after more than 70 years, still can make that claim.

It is also a distinctly family operation, with the personal touch and supervision of the Hochmans, who take their reputation for stocking "the best quality for the best price" very seriously. It all started with Calman Hochman, a Jewish Polish immigrant who opened his first small shop with his Aruban wife Anna, carrying "a little bit of everything that anyone could need." This was before WWII, when the present head of the company, Jaime, hadn't even been born yet. Many of their sales help have also been with the store for over two decades, and "it is very much like family here," he admits. Their loyal patrons

also look forward to being helped by shop girls who have become friends, knowing they will get great and honest service.

To this day, La Linda is particularly known for its huge fabrics and notions department, the first destination for many on an island where making your own clothes is still an everyday practice. Without question, the store offers the greatest diversity of selection in nearly every department, and they have now consolidated them all into one store; four floors containing a

it open daily for the entire day, from 9:30 AM to 6:30 PM, as they are on Saturday's, with a bright, charming eatery installed on the top floor.

La Linda is continually expanding their inventory, with their acquisitions department continually seeking out interesting, unique, and moderately priced goods from all over the world, always with an eye towards quality. They pay particular attention to their Women's Department specializing in over-sized garments, stocking larger sizes exhibiting distinctive dash



Comfortable lounges for companions while shopping a vast selection

wealth of choices in clothing for men, women and children, house wares, bedding, sporting goods, luggage, shoes, jewelry, decorative items and more.

"The present store is a work in progress," asserts Jaime, as they continue to renovate and enlarge what had been only the men's store and warehouse in the past. Normally closed for a 2 hour lunch/siesta in the old island way, shoppers will soon find

and style.

For travelers who have perhaps lost their luggage, they can offer a quick fix for all the family which won't break your budget, including some very stylish new suitcases.

A visit to La Linda and perusal of their interesting collection will make anyone understand why it has remained successful all these decades, and is still Aruba's favorite place to shop!

## 'Lazy' Italian postman hoarded 400 kilos of mail

ROME (AFP) - A hard-partying village postman on the Italian island of Sardinia was too "lazy" to deliver post in the morning and instead hoarded some 400 kilos (882 pounds) of it in his home, local residents and the police said.

"Residents had long been complaining to the police they were not receiving hundreds of important documents," local policeman Gianni di Carlo told AFP.



"We went to his house and we found a huge amount of mail in his garage," he said.

"We found 400 kilos of it, all divided up by category," he added. Some of the mail dated back to as far back as four

years ago.

The 50-year-old postman in Mores, a village of 2,000 people in rural Sardinia, faces up to three years in prison for "stealing mail".

"He seemed like a nice guy but he did have late nights and drink a bit too much. Maybe that's why he was so lazy," said Fidel, owner of a local hotel.

A local hairdresser said: "I think he just didn't want to work."

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## Eat like a local at The Queen's restaurant at Palm Beach Plaza



Grandma's classic Stew beef with Rice and Potato salad

-- An elegant décor with a breezy terrace overlooking Palm Beach welcomes guests to Varella Innocencia's very popular restaurant showcasing authentic local cuisine:

### The Queen's

They may have moved from Oranjestad to hipper new digs in Palm Beach Plaza, but the food and prices are strictly native, which is what first won this charming eatery their loyal

clientele. Varella's mom, Luisa, is still in the kitchen, conjuring up the delicious dishes that have been in her family for generations, acknowledged on the menu with items such as "Carni Stoba di Mamachi"- "Grandma's Beef Stew," and their Arawak Steak, along with local delicacies like Keshi Yena - "Full Cheese." This is a tasty, filling stew of chicken, with other ingredients that are handy that day, all in-

cased in a thick skin of melted Gouda. It was very satisfying and particularly memorable paired with The Queen's garlic bread and very special Pica, a mix of chopped onions and the famous local hot pepper, Madame Janette. Not overly spicy, it lends that perfect bit of tang to this deliciously picturesque meal.

One of the distinctions of Aruban cuisine is incorporating unique indigenous ingredients such as in Wild Cucumber Stew and a particular light fish chowder accompanied by the local specialties pan bati (corn meal pancake) and funchi (the local version of polenta.)

Seafood main courses for Catch of the Day Aruban Style to shrimp and a mixed seafood platter with shrimp, fish, squid, scallops and mussels. Meat dishes such as BBQ Chicken and Ribs or Grilled Tenderloin, each including a choice of 2



Varella, Luisa and the next generation of chef

side dishes; all quite yummy and bargain-priced to boot!

The Queen's is located on the second level of Palm Beach Plaza, tucked into a cozy corner at the front of the mall. If you have a mind to try the real deal in Aruban food, without a doubt, this is the way to truly eat like a local.

They are open daily,

from 11:00 am to 11:00pm, Telf: 5860606 and email: [saus.arubancuisine@live.com](mailto:saus.arubancuisine@live.com), offering indoor and outdoor dining. Aside from an extensive menu they also have daily specials made from whatever is in season and Mama Luisa is in the mood to prepare, so don't forget to ask about what isn't on the menu!

## Budget Car Rental celebrating 50 years budget-minded service!



Explore Aruba in a Jeep wrangler hard top

The car rental name synonymous with savings will next month celebrate their golden anniversary of operating on Aruba! One of the first of its kind to establish a car rental agency with highly competitive prices, it still maintains that standard of offering the best service, a diverse fleet of vehicles to meet each renters needs, at the best price possible.

Budget has a fleet of 250 autos on Aruba, ranging from subcompact to authentic Jeep Wrangler® hardtop 4X4 or the stylish Toyota Rav 4, for exploring Aruba's outback in air-conditioned comfort. Their standard Toyota Yaris, the most popular model, is known for quality and dependability. Each year, they refresh 25% of their fleet and

retire the older cars. Compared to the U.S., car rentals are quite affordable on Aruba, with the third party liability insurance included in the rental rates, as required by law.

Budget's head office is in Camacuri, not far from the airport, but they maintain an outlet right at the airport and another conveniently located in the Arawak Gardens in Palm Beach, an easy stroll from all the Palm Beach resorts. Budget will provide free transportation to their Arawak Gardens outlet from any hotel, and return you



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A Toyota Yaris rents for \$174 for the week; there is an additional airport concession fee to have a car available immediately on arrival, but this is balanced out by the cost of roundtrip fares to most resorts, and on weekly rentals is a decided savings.

Budget has become the world's third largest car rental franchise because of their commitment to quality service and product at the best price possible, and the staff of Budget Car Rental Aruba is equally dedicated to seeing their customers smile

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**When we drive and try to text,  
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Keep your eyes on the road,  
Don't try to fix it, get it towed.**

**While driving think of others,  
Don't drink and drive, for all the mothers,  
If you hear your cell phone ring,  
Many consequences it may bring.**

by AnitaPoems.com



## SPORTS

### Auto Racing: Indy 500 pole fight set for today



INDIANAPOLIS, (AFP) - Three-time Indianapolis 500 winner Dario Franchitti has never started on the front row in the US oval classic but the Scotsman is threatening to claim the top spot today.

Qualifying for the 97th Indy 500 on May 26 will be staged this weekend at the famed 2 1/2-mile (four kilometer) oval with the pole being decided on Saturday and the final spots in the 33-car field to be filled on Sunday.

Defending champion Franchitti, who has finished third in qualifying four different times, won from the inside of the second row in 2007 and 2010 but came from 16th to capture last year's race in a thriller.

Franchitti held off Japan's Takuma Sato, who crashed attempting a pass on the inside of the first turn on the final lap, to claim the 2012 victory.

On Wednesday, Franchitti

clocked the top practice speed at 224.236 mph in his Honda-powered Dallara.

"It doesn't really count for much, but it's nice nonetheless," Franchitti said. "We're still very much in the preparation stage. We're making changes to the car... really the lap time came from being in the right place at the right time. Still got a little work to do but we're closer than we have been."

Only Americans Marco Andretti, whose grandfather Mario won the famed racing family's only Indy title back in 1969, and Ryan Hunter-Reay, the reigning IndyCar series champion, and Brazil's Helio Castroneves, a three-time Indy 500 winner, turned faster laps in the first five days of practice.

"We have a solid idea of the setup we want the car to have at this point," Andretti said.

That trial and error has helped Hunter-Reay as well.

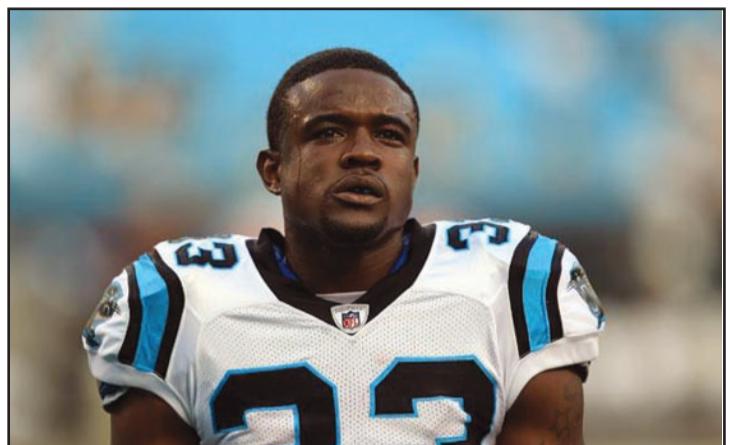
"We tried quite a few different setups because the weather is changing. It's getting hotter," he said. "So we're just logging more data. We were on the top of the charts most of the day but finished with a great race car, so I'm really happy with it."

Franchitti had the only Honda engine among the speed leaders, the others running on Chevrolet power. The only other car among the fastest 10 with Honda power is that of Sato, this season's points leader.

Sato, a former Formula One racer, became the first Japanese driver to win an IndyCar race when he captured the title last month at Long Beach. He has 136 points, 13 ahead of Andretti with Castroneves 20 points back in third.

"We are here aiming to win the 500. So there is no reason why we cannot," Sato said, dismissing any notion he might be reluctant to attack again on the final lap with victory on the line. "When there is a chance, then I never back off."

### NFL: Jets rusher Goodson arrested



NEW YORK (AFP) - New York Jets running back Mike Goodson, who just signed a three-year deal with the National Football League club, was arrested Friday morning on drug possession and weapon charges, police said.

Goodson and another man, Garant Evans, were spotted by a tow truck driver in a stopped vehicle in suburban Denville, New Jersey, according to state police.

Police arrested Goodson, 25, who was found to possess marijuana. A handgun and more marijuana was found by police upon searching the vehicle.

Goodson was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of marijuana, •••••

unlawful handgun possession, possession of a loaded handgun and possession of hollow point ammunition.

Evans, 31, faces the same charges as well as one for driving while intoxicated.

Goodson played last year with Oakland after spending his first three NFL seasons with the Carolina Panthers before inking a deal worth \$6.9 million to join the Jets ahead of the upcoming campaign that opens in September.

In 40 games over four NFL seasons, Goodson has run for 722 yards and three touchdowns on 160 carries and caught 59 passes for 524 yards and one touchdown. He also worked on kick return units. •••••

### Tennis: Djokovic crashes in Rome, ailing Sharapova pulls out

ROME (AFP) - World number one Novak Djokovic crashed out of the Rome Masters at the hands of big-serving Tomas Berdych on Friday while Maria Sharapova withdrew from the women's event through illness.

Berdych, who had beaten top-seeded Djokovic only once in their last 14 meetings, prevailed 2-6, 7-5, 6-4 to book himself an unlikely place in the semi-finals against Nadal and boost his chances ahead of the French Open which gets underway on May 26.

"I lost this match by myself," admitted Djokovic, who had led by a set and 5-2 and had suffered a second round loss to Grigor Dimitrov at last week's Madrid Masters.

After his feat, Berdych said he put his past record against Djokovic to the back of his mind.

French surprise package Benoit Paire reached his first Masters semi-final with a 6-1, 6-0 win over Spaniard Marcel

Granollers. Sharapova, a two-time winner and the world number two, had been due to play Italy's Sara Errani, who she defeated in last year's French Open final.

However, the Russian announced her withdrawal on Friday morning, citing sickness and claiming she had run a temperature overnight.

Top seed Williams, meanwhile, sailed through to her semi-final with a 6-2, 6-0 win over Spain's Carla Suarez Navarro.

It was the American's 22nd successive win this year.

Errani, the world number six, will now go through to the semi-finals to meet the winner of the match between Australia's Samantha Stosur and Victoria Azarenka of Belarus.

Romanian qualifier Simona Halep reached her first major semi-final, saving two match points on her way to beating Jelena Jankovic 4-6, 6-0, 7-5.

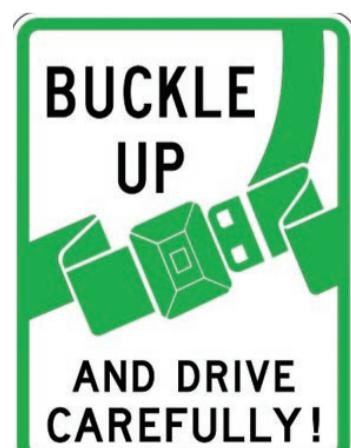
Williams awaits Halep in the semi-finals.

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## Racing: Rail start in Preakness no worry for Orb trainer

BALTIMORE (AFP) - Kentucky Derby winner Orb will start today's 138th Preakness from the usually unfancied rail, but trainer Shug McGaughey likes his colt's chances even with the inside starting spot.

Orb will try to win the 1 3/16ths-mile event at Pimlico to sustain hopes for the first US flat racing Triple Crown sweep since Affirmed in 1978, which would also require the three-year-old to capture the Belmont Stakes on June 8.

Going from the inside often means the horse is charging while the entire field of rivals is trying to claim the same space for the shortest line around the track. But in a nine-horse Preakness field, Mc-

Gaughey is not so worried.

"It's a pretty straight start," he said. "They won't be jockeying for position as much going into the first turn as they did in the Derby. We'll hold our position, see how the race plays out and take it from there."

No horse has won the Preakness starting from the rail since Tabasco Cat in 1994.

Orb, the even-money favorite, might also benefit because he tends to back off the pace early in the race as he did at the Derby, where a field of 20 might have consigned him to an also-ran spot had he drawn the rail.

"It's not nearly (as bad) as it would be for the Derby," he said.

In all, 12 horses have won the Derby and Preakness since 1978 but none has taken the longest race, at Belmont, to become the 12th Triple Crown winner.

Mylute, with Rosie Napravnik aboard, is second with oddsmakers at 5-1 followed by Departing at 6-1 and Goldencents with jockey Kevin Krieger at 8-1.

Krieger, from the US Virgin Islands, could become the first black jockey to win the Preakness since Willie Simms aboard Sly Fox in 1898. Krieger will be only the seventh

black jockey in the Preakness, the first since 1985.

Napravnik will become only the third woman jockey in the Preakness and the first since 1994. The only Triple Crown triumph by a woman jockey was in 1993 when Julie Krone rode Colonial Affair to victory at the Belmont Stakes.

The field also includes Itsmyluckyday at 10-1, Will Take Charge and Govenor Charlie at 12-1, Oxbow at 15-1 and 30-1 longshot Titletown Five.

Goldencents, who finished 17th at the Derby, will start alongside Orb.

"We're completely comfortable with No. 2," Goldencents trainer Doug O'Neill said. "If all goes well, (Orb) is going to be behind us -- at least early. That is where having a cool-headed guy like Kevin will come into play."

Mylute, fifth in the Kentucky Derby, will start from the fifth gate with Illinois Derby winner Departing out of the fourth gate.

"Orb isn't going to go on with it so he's going to have to go around," said Departing trainer Al Stall.

Veteran trainer D. Wayne Lukas offers Will Take Charge, Oxbow and Titletown Five this time but admits Orb is the horse to beat.

## NBA: Kings sold to group led by India's Ranadive

SACRAMENTO (AFP) - A group led by software magnate Vivek Ranadive of India has purchased the NBA's Sacramento Kings and will keep the team in the California capital, according to several media reports.

The Maloof family had made a deal to sell the club to a group that would have moved it to Seattle, but league owners voted 22-8 to reject that deal on Wednesday, setting the stage for the sale to Ranadive's group for a record sum.

Reports by the Sacramento Bee, USA Today and NBA telecasters Turner Sports and ESPN said the group would buy 65 percent controlling interest in the Kings for a record NBA club valuation of \$535 million.

That would mean

Ranadive's group would spend \$347 million for the Kings in a deal expected to be officially announced next week by the NBA.

Ranadive becomes the first NBA owner of Indian heritage at a time when the league has made moves to try and grow interest in basketball among the 1.2 billion people in cricket-loving India.

As part of the deal, Sacramento mayor Kevin Johnson -- a former NBA player -- and the group must build a new \$447 million arena in short order.

Also under league rules, Ranadive must sell his minority interest in the NBA's Golden State Warriors.

Seattle once had an NBA club, the SuperSonics, but the team was relocated to Oklahoma City and renamed the Thunder in 2008.

## Tennis: Nadal ousts Ferrer in Rome slug-fest

ROME (AFP) - Defending champion Rafael Nadal remained on course for the Rome Masters final after coming through a tough quarter-final against fellow Spaniard David Ferrer on Friday. Nadal prevailed 6-4, 4-6, 6-2 in a 2hr 46min thriller in which Ferrer's challenge only petered out in the deciding set. Nadal will now meet Tomas Berdych in Saturday's semi-final after the Czech ousted world number one and top seed Novak Djokovic. It is Nadal's second win over Ferrer inside a fortnight after his quarter-final victory over him on his way to the Madrid Masters title last week.

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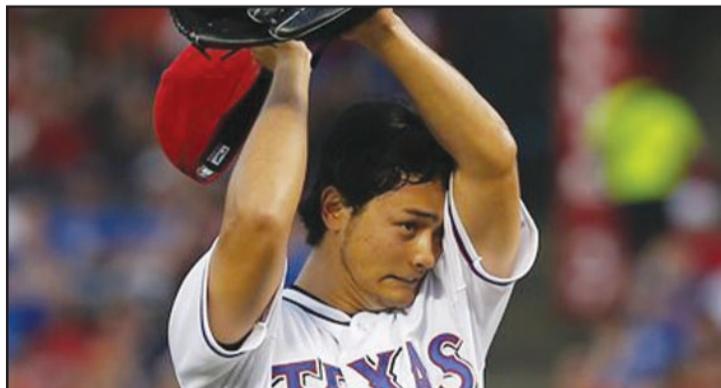
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## NBA: Parker, Spurs hold off Warriors to advance

OAKLAND (AFP) - The San Antonio Spurs booked a return trip to the NBA Western Conference finals on Thursday, holding off the Golden State Warriors 94-82 to win their second-round playoff series.

San Antonio's Tony Parker endured a difficult night of 3-of-13 shooting, but two of those baskets were crucial three-pointers in the final four minutes to help the Spurs fend off the determined young Warriors team.

### Baseball: Dazzling Darvish improves to 7-1



ARLINGTON (AFP) - Texas Rangers pitcher Yu Darvish of Japan has stretched his Major League Baseball strikeouts lead and improved to 7-1 on the season after an impressive eight-inning effort in downing Detroit.

An expected American League showdown with Tigers' ace Justin Verlander never developed as the Detroit hurler lasted only 2 2/3 innings, his shortest outing in almost three years, as the Rangers imposed a seven-run third inning Thursday on the way to a 10-4 triumph.

Japan's Darvish, in his second season since leaving his homeland, struck out six over eight innings and his 86 strike-

The Spurs won the best-of-seven series four games to two and will face the Memphis Grizzlies in the Western Conference finals for a place in the league's championship series.

San Antonio will host the Grizzlies in game one on Sunday. Two years ago, the Grizzlies shocked the Spurs in the first round. The Spurs returned to the Western Conference finals last season, but fell to Oklahoma City.



Tony Parker #9 of the San Antonio Spurs drives against Draymond Green #23 of the Golden State.

Tim Duncan scored 19 points to lead the Spurs. Parker and Manu Ginobili both struggled with their shooting but combined for 19 assists.

Ginobili scored five points on 1-of-6 shooting -- his only basket of the night a driving layup to stretch the Spurs lead back to five points after Golden State's Klay Thompson had drained a three-pointer to trim the deficit to three points with 10 minutes remaining.

Back-to-back jump shots by Thompson and Stephen Curry cut the Warriors' deficit to 77-75 with 4:52 to play.

A Spurs turnover then gave Golden State a chance to tie, but Curry was off-target with two attempts.

A three-pointer by Parker saw the Spurs regain some breathing room.

Kawhi Leonard also made a big three-pointer for San Antonio in the waning minutes, while Golden State's Thompson and Curry both saw three-point attempts rattle around the rim and fail to fall.

Parker, meanwhile, drained another three-pointer to put the Spurs up 88-79 with 1:15 to play.

"As we've said a lot in the playoffs, sometimes in the end it comes down to making shots. Down the stretch we made a couple of threes ... we did make some shots down the stretch and they didn't," said Spurs coach Gregg Popovich.

Parker scored 10 of his 13 points in the final four minutes.

"I was just tired, obviously,"

Parker said of his shooting woes. "I think all the minutes caught up with me. Tonight I just didn't have it."

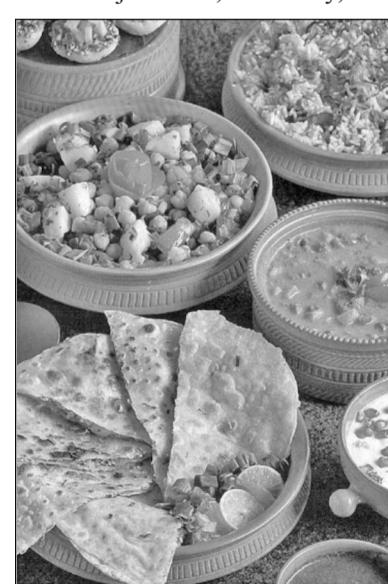
Leonard finished with 16 points and 10 rebounds for the Spurs, who got 14 points from Tiago Splitter and 11 from Danny Green.

Curry led the Warriors with 22 points on 10-of-25 shooting but only scored six points in the second half.

Jarrett Jack added 15 points for the Warriors, who were without forward Harrison Barnes in the fourth quarter after his frightening fall near the end of the first half.

Barnes came down hard on his right side, his head hitting the court. He needed six stitches in a cut over his right eye, returned to the game in the third quarter but then departed complaining of a headache.

"Sometimes one of the best statements you can make is fighting," said Warriors coach Mark Jackson. "Guys battled. Guys gave me everything they had. And we fought. I could not be prouder of any group."



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